

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet printer cartridge (46) including at least one print head (50) for printing data on a support (17), wherein a thin printed circuit (66) is permanently fixed to the printer cartridge and a miniature data processing unit (68) fixed to said thin printed circuit analyzes a stream (44) of printing commands for controlling the print head to authenticate the data to be printed on the support.
2. A printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the thin printed circuit is flexible.
3. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the processing unit (68) includes means (100) for verifying the presence in the stream of printing commands of data for authenticating data to be printed.
4. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the processing unit includes means (102) for verifying the integrity of the data to be printed.
5. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the processing unit includes means for deciding whether or not to authorize the printing of data according to the result obtained by the verification means.
6. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the energy necessary for the processing unit to function is obtained from the stream of printing commands.
7. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the data processing unit is implemented in programmed logic.
8. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the printed circuit (66) is glued to the exterior surface of the printer cartridge.

9. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising:
an exterior surface including electrical contacts (79) connected to the print head to transmit thereto printing commands for printing data on the support.

10. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the printed circuit has a first portion (67) carrying electrical contacts adapted to receive the stream of printing commands and connected to the data processing unit, and which is on a first region of the exterior surface of the cartridge.

11. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the printed circuit has a second portion (69) on which the data processing unit is mounted and which is on a second region of the exterior surface of the printer cartridge.

12. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 11, wherein the second portion of the printed circuit is on a second region of the exterior surface of the printer cartridge which, when said printer cartridge is integrated into a printer unit, forms with the components of said unit sufficient space to accommodate the data processing unit.

13. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the printed circuit is double-sided.

14. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the printed circuit has two opposing faces and wherein one of the faces of the printed circuit in contact with the cartridge includes electrical contact areas connected to the electrical contacts connected to the print head and to the data processing unit on the opposite face of the circuit.

15. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 14, wherein the opposite face carrying the data processing unit includes electrical contacts adapted to receive the stream of printing commands.

16. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the data processing unit is thin.

17. An inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 16, wherein the total thickness of the processing unit and the printed circuit is less than or equal to 1.5 mm.

18. A data printer unit comprising an inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1.

19. A franking machine including a unit for generating franking data to be printed and a printer unit receiving franking data from said data generating unit, characterized in that the printer unit includes an inkjet printer cartridge according to claim 1.